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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Ernst MERK Applicants:

Ralf KÖHLER

Title:

HEATING DEVICE COMPRISING A

FLEXIBLE HEATING ELEMENT

Based Upon: PCT/EP03/00178

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02 July 2004

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FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the subject U.S. Patent Application as follows to place this U.S. Patent Application in better condition for examination.

In the New Claims 1-10 from the verified English language translation, substitute the following Claims 1-10 (Currently Amended) for the pending Claims 1-10 (Original) from the PCT Article 36 Amendment.